



ROCKVILLE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2 West Montgomery Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-314-8900

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

TRAVEL

With the holiday season upon us, many residents may be traveling away from the area to visit loved ones. To help ensure that your time away from home is a safe and pleasant one, the Rockville City Police Department has provided a few Holiday Safety Crime Prevention Tips:

Home Security -

- *Installing timers on lighting in different rooms to simulate that someone is home;*
- *Having your mail held and your newspaper cancelled or having a neighbor or friend stop by daily to pick them up;*
- *Having someone to stop by and check on your home regularly while you're away;*
- *Having a neighbor park one of their cars in your driveway*

These are just some of the simple, inexpensive ways that can be used in protecting your home's security while you are away enjoying the holidays.

For your vehicle –

- *At the airport, train station, bus depot, park in a well-lighted spot if possible*
- *Remove all items from view as well as valuables from your vehicle.*
- *Lock your doors and make sure your trunk is secured.*
- *Roll up all windows, close your sunroof, and secure convertible tops.*
- *Set your alarm.*

Hotel and Motel Security -

- *If you are staying in a hotel or motel, take all your luggage and valuables to your room.*
- ***DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES INSIDE YOUR VEHICLE.***
- *Never leave money, checks, credit cards, car keys or valuables in the room. Take them with you.*
- *Determine the most direct route to and from your room, to the fire escapes, elevators and nearest telephone.*
- *Keep daily checks on your belongings*
- *Unpack and place belongings in the closet and dresser. Arrange your things so you'll know if anything is missing.*
- *Report any lost or stolen items to the hotel/motel management and to the police.*

Out of Town Guests -

- *Have all guests remove valuables from their vehicles.*
- *Have guests lock, secure and set their vehicle alarms.*

Black Friday – Holiday Shopping

With Black Friday fast approaching, the Rockville City Police Department would like to remind residents, that while out holiday shopping, please keep personal items (such as purses and wallets) on your person at all times and do not leave them unattended in shopping carts, baby strollers, on counters, or hung on the backs of chairs in restaurants. Remember that during the holiday season, thieves are also out there too, looking for the perfect opportunity to make you their latest victim.

Parking -

- *When parking at shopping centers, park in a well-lighted space and to be sure to lock your car and set the alarm. When placing packages in your vehicle, place your shopping bags and gifts in the trunk. Remember to always keep valuable hidden from view.*

To deter pickpockets –

- *Keep your wallet in your front pocket.*
- *Make sure you keep your purse closed and that you carry it in front of you.*
- *Do not place your purse/wallet in shopping carts or strollers.*
- *Avoid carrying a large amount of cash; pay with checks and credit cards when you can.*
- *Keep an eye on your credit card; make sure you put your receipt and credit card back in your wallet before leaving the counter and make sure that you place your wallet back in your purse or pants pocket.*
- *When shopping with children, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.*
- *Try to use automated teller machines during the daytime. Have your card in hand and don't approach the machine if you are being watched.*

Help us this holiday season, by staying safe and not becoming a victim.

To report a crime contact the Rockville City Police Department – 240-314-8900

For more crime prevention safety tips, please visit the Rockville City Police Department section on the City of Rockville Website at www.rockvillemd.gov – search Rockville City Police, scroll down to Crime Prevention; or visit the National Crime Prevent Council's website at www.ncpc.org.